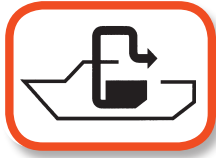


What is the Clean Vessel Act?

Congress passed the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) in 1992 to help reduce pollution from vessel sewage discharges. The Act established a federal pumpout grant program administered by the US Fish & Wildlife Service and authorized the use of funds from the Sport Fish Restoration Account of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund for use by the States. Federal funds can constitute up to 75% of all approved project costs.



Why Worry About Your Waste?

- Boats with holding tanks who discharge sewage illegally and carelessly may be pouring large amounts of harmful chemicals used as deodorizers, such as formaldehyde, chlorine, and ammonium compounds in the water.
- Sewage decreases dissolved oxygen levels causing fish kills as well as other aquatic life mortalities. It may also reduce growth, alter fish behavior, and have adverse reproductive effects.
- Sewage causes waterborne diseases, such as typhoid, cholera, gastroenteritis, bacillary dysentery and hepatitis.
- Shellfish become contaminated from ingesting sewage, which humans, in turn, eat, and then contract fecal contaminants and disease.
- Sewage acts as a fertilizer and increases algal growth, which blocks needed sunlight from aquatic vegetation that act as nursery habitat for fish.
- Floating sewage ruins your outdoor experience!

No Discharge Zones

Areas most likely to be affected by severe contamination are those sheltered waters with low flushing rates as well as waters with recreational values. Areas of significant concern are designated as No Discharge Zones (NDZs).



South Carolina's No Discharge Zones

- Broad Creek (Hilton Head Island)
- Lake Hartwell
- Lake Keowee
- Lake Murray
- Lake Thurmond
- Lake Wylie

In coastal areas, the No Discharge Zone consists of shellfish beds that are harvested for human consumption, and other sensitive areas, such as designated swimming sites.

What Can You Do?

To prevent the possible dangers that sewage can cause to humans and the environment, boaters should use: portable toilets, utilize onshore or floating restrooms, or have a Marine Sanitation Device installed on board and use a pumpout at a local marina.

Marine Sanitation Devices (MSD)

Under US Coast Guard Regulations, all boats with installed toilets are required to have a MSD. There are three types: I, II, and III. All installed MSDs must be Coast Guard certified.

Sewage Treatment Device	Vessel Length	Function
Type I	Equal to or less than 65 feet in length	Macerates & disinfects waste prior to discharge
Type II	Greater than 65 feet in length	Same as Type I except it reduces suspended solids and discharges waste with a lower bacteria count
Type III	Any length	Sewage is deposited into a holding tank which can be disposed at a pumpout facility

Types I and II treat waste and discharge it overboard and, therefore cannot be used in a No Discharge Zone without properly securing the device in a manner which prevents any discharge. Some acceptable methods are: padlocking overboard discharge valves or using non releasable wire tie to hold overboard discharge valves in the closed position, closing overboard discharge valves and removing the handle, or locking the door, with padlock or keylock, to the space enclosing the toilets.

Type III uses a holding tank to keep waste for onshore pumpouts. There is a discharge option available called a Y-valve with a Type III MSD, so that if you are boating in the ocean for long periods of time, treated sewage may be discharged passed the US Territorial Waters (3 miles from the shoreline).



Sewage discharge by recreational boaters may seem minimal. Quite often people respond that they are just one boater, but combine that one boater's discharge with the fact that South Carolina has approximately 400,000 registered boaters plus any visiting vessels and the discharge from these boaters is a substantial contributor to localized degradation of water quality.

It is illegal for houseboats to discharge raw or treated sewage into freshwater. It is also illegal to discharge in a No Discharge Zone (NDZ).



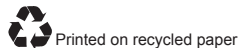
**For Further Information About the
Clean Vessel Act and How to Obtain
Federal Aid for a pumpout
Contact Lorianne Riffin at
RiffinL@dnr.sc.gov**



**YOUR
PURCHASE
SUPPORTS**



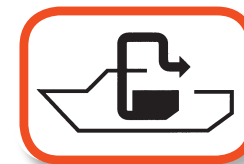
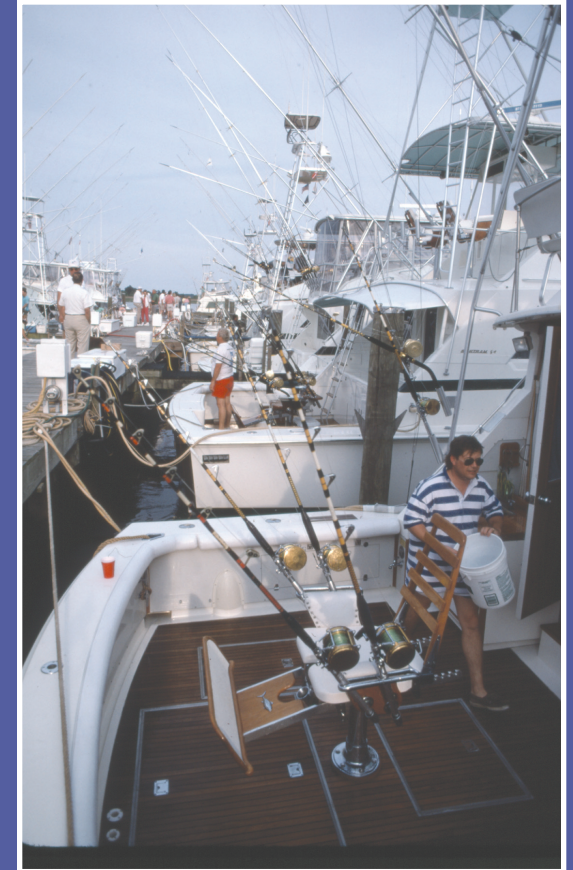
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Clean Vessel Act



**KEEP OUR
WATER CLEAN —
USE PUMPOUTS**